Dear Jim,

1/28/78

There really is a Stoner conspiracy.

It is to keep me from sleeping, though, not to defame the FBI.

As you know, I got up to early yesterday (again today), I decided to go to bed about and with and with what I have to go through to get to bed now had just put the light out when the phone rang. It was Stoner - seeking advice and information.

He had received a phone call from someone representing himself as an AP reporter named Joe Smith. The name at first made him suspicious but finally Stoner decided it sounded like a reporter.

The House assassins have subpoenaed Stoner and Fields. The thing that they want to know is how long he has known the Ray family.

He wanted to know if I knew anything about it and then the powers of the committee, etc. He will go to court to oppose it. If his mind were not fixed as it is he could do something in court. It is improper to seek any information about his clients from a lawyer and Stoner has represented all the Ray men. Maybe not Carol.

I told him they were on a fishing expedition but did not elaborate. The committee, if its purposes were legit., would have sent representatives to see him and ask such questions. If then not satisfied it would hold a hearing. Failure to follow normal procedure indicates a media event and perhaps the beginning of some Ray deal of an unsavory aroma.

They'll have a time with Fields. Stoner will give them speeches about the FBI. I think he'll be able to specify enough to embarrass the FBI. If this happens then you may want to recall that I tipped the DJ off in 1969.

We had a long conversation. We got into FOIA. He had told Les Payne that he would be asking advice from me but he hadn't. He got it last night. He had not even bothered to look up FOIA or PA. He will now. I also told him how to get the committee's resolution.

When I told him that he had to write each field office separately he said that is too much trouble. When I told him we had written to 59 of them he seemed to realize it is less than impossible. He must be as lazy as Jerry told me.

I told him and through him Jerry, who later took the phone, that the UPI story is a phoney and that I had broken those records loose. He asked about him and I told him about those on him and in general how the NSRP figures in the files, justifying the FBI on that parts, as I think he saw. I explained how the phoney conspiracy record was contrived and he asked for a copy I'll send when Lil has the machine going. But remember, you told me to write him about this and I did. He did not respond. I forgot to ask him if he got that letter.

Jerry's present interests, by tape and by phone, seem to be limited to McMillan, with Mark having him all steamed up about getting rich over it - he't thinking of getting a new Cadillac when he gets that cash, about $200,000 he figures - and what it means to be a champion chicken raiser. He keeps coming back to both.

I would encourage you to keep in mind that the committee is not going about this the right way and to take this as an indication not that it does not know better but that it is up to a spectacular. Like with Trafficante and Hall - meaningless except for headlines.

Best,